

important laws, including the POW/MIA Memorial flag Act of 2001, P.L. 107-323; the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000, P.L. 106-484; the Persian Gulf War Accountability Act of 2002, P.L. 107-258; and the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act of 1999, P.L. 106-214. I want to take this opportunity to also commend my deputy chief of staff and legislative director, Larry Vigil, for all of his good work in getting these important initiatives passed on behalf of all Americans.

As my colleagues know, the United States has fought in many wars and thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action. In the 20th century wars alone, more than 147,000 Americans were captured and became prisoners of war. Of that number, more than 15,000 died while in captivity. When we add to this number, those who are still missing in action, we realize that we cannot do enough to not only remember their service, but to bring them back home alive.

Our mission is far from over. Today we continue to look for Capt. Michael Speicher from the 1991 Persian Gulf war and PFC Keith "Matt" Maupin who went missing in action in Iraq on April 9, 2004. To that end, we must remain fully committed to leave no one behind and push for a full accounting for those who are still missing. We must spare no effort to bring them home.

The power of our democracy and the strength of our society comes from acknowledging our interdependence on each other. In our best moments we know full well that the commitment of so many in the military service has made our Nation and our lives fuller and more complete.

I commend Danny "Greasy" Belcher with Task Force Omega of Kentucky for his tireless efforts in bringing awareness to the POW/MIA issue and organizing national support for many of these successful legislative initiatives. I also thank Artie Muller, president of Rolling Thunder National, for his continued years of work on the POW/MIA issue and the National League of POW/MIA Families, the National Vietnam and Gulf War Veterans Coalition, VietNow and Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., and others.

As I conclude my tenure in the United States Senate, I challenge my colleagues and those who will follow in my footsteps to continue this valuable and necessary work to support the friends and families of those who are POW/MIA.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, in 1878 a group of pioneering women led by Mrs. Appoline A. Blair had the innovative idea to open a hospital in St. Louis where children could receive the special care they needed and deserved. In 1879, St. Louis Children's Hospital opened its doors to children and fami-

lies in downtown St. Louis, Missouri in a small, rented house with 15 beds. This year, St. Louis Children's Hospital, the first children's hospital west of the Mississippi River and the seventh oldest in the country, is proud to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Today, St. Louis Children's Hospital's clinical and community outreach programs touch more than 250,000 patients annually. Patients from all 50 States and nearly 50 countries around the world have passed through the doors and been served by this remarkable institution.

The pioneering spirit with which this hospital was founded has continued through its long and distinguished history. St. Louis Children's Hospital, working in conjunction with Washington University School of Medicine, has consistently been at the forefront of pediatric care. From its earliest days St. Louis Children's Hospital has been home to critical pediatric advances. For example, from 1915 through the 1920s, Dr. Vilray Blair, known as the father of plastic surgery in America, perfected several important methods for correction of cleft palate and cleft lip. At about the same time, Dr. W. McKim Marriott, the hospital's pediatrician-in-chief from 1917 to 1936, revolutionized the artificial feeding of infants developing a formula using evaporated milk, corn syrup and lactic acid supplemented with vitamins and iron. In 1922, for the first time anywhere, insulin was used to successfully treat an infant with diabetes. In 1927, Dr. James Barrett Brown performed the first homograft on a child resulting in the development of modern care for burns for children. In 1929, Dr. Alexis P. Hartmann developed the first practical treatment, Lactate Ringers Solution, for infants suffering from severe diarrhea and dehydration. Dr. Hartmann served as the hospital's pediatrician-in-chief from 1936 to 1964.

St. Louis Children's Hospital pioneered developments in many other health areas, including diagnosis of congenital heart diseases. After the acquisition of a heart-lung machine in 1958, the hospital became one of the most active institutions in the country in the field of pediatric open heart surgery. David Goldring, MD, who formed the hospital's cardiology division in 1950 and remained its director until 1985, was a pioneer in pediatric open heart surgery. In another "first," doctors oversaw the first complete exchange of blood in a tiny infant weighing less than 3 pounds.

The first pediatric dialysis unit in the Midwest was set up at St. Louis Children's Hospital in 1974. Another innovation during the 1970s was the establishment of the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Deformities Institute, the only one of its kind in the Midwest at the time. This unit works with many other areas of the hospital to reconstruct head and facial deformities in children. Dr. Thomas Spray, a cardiothoracic surgeon, performed his

first successful Norwood procedure, an advanced surgical technique used to correct the fatal congenital heart defect known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Doctors at St. Louis Children's Hospital also performed the region's first cochlear implant, surgically implanting a device that helps children who are deaf to speak and comprehend language.

In addition, St. Louis Children's Hospital established the first free-standing pediatric lung transplant program in the United States. Today, St. Louis Children's Hospital is home to the world's most active pediatric lung transplant program. The hospital is one of the nation's leaders in total pediatric organ transplants, offering kidney, liver, heart and bone marrow transplant programs as well.

St. Louis Children's Hospital is recognized among America's best children's hospitals by Child magazine and US News & World Report, and its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is distinguished nationally by Child magazine.

Mr. President, please join with me in celebrating 125 years of excellence in pediatric care. The pioneering vision and spirit of St. Louis Children's Hospital has improved the lives of children and families in Missouri and around the globe.●

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS AND THE ROSE BOWL

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns about college football's Bowl Championship Series and the formula used to select teams to play in the major bowls at the end of the season.

Despite having one of their best seasons in years, the University of California at Berkeley Golden Bears were denied an opportunity to play the University of Michigan in the Rose Bowl on New Years Day, and will instead play Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl on December 30 in San Diego.

For decades the Rose Bowl has featured the top teams from the Pac Ten Conference and the Big Ten Conference. Players and coaches dream of representing their universities in one of college football's showcase events. For their part, Cal fans and alumni have waited 46 years for another opportunity to see their Bears play in the "granddaddy of them all".

With all due respect to Texas, it just does not seem right to see the champion of the Big Ten Conference, Michigan, play a school from the Big Twelve Conference and not the Pac Ten. It would be like eliminating the traditional floats from the Tournament of Roses Parade.

I know it may surprise some that a proud Stanford alum would take to the Senate floor to speak out on behalf of the Cardinal's bitter rival, but as a Senator representing the entire State of California, I feel it is my obligation to support all of our fine college athletes and to ensure that fairness and